

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

**Amendments To The Claims:**

Kindly amend the claims in accordance with the following claim set.

1. (Currently Amended) A carpet tile, comprising: a primary carpet, and a rebond foam cushion fixed at a position below said primary carpet wherein the rebond foam cushion comprises foam chips and binder and includes an upper surface of rebond foam, the carpet tile further comprising at least one layer of adhesive material between said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion and wherein said adhesive material is in contacting bonding relation with said upper surface of rebond foam.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, further comprising a layer of reinforcing material disposed within at least a portion of said layer of adhesive material such that at least a portion of said mass of adhesive material extends away from at least one side of said layer of reinforcing material.
4. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive material comprises at least one of a thermoplastic and thermoset adhesive.
5. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is characterized by a face weight of about 20 - 40 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.

Customer No. 25280

Case S113A

6. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is characterized by a face weight of about 12 - 40 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.
7. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive is present at a level of less than or equal to about 100 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.
8. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive is present at a level of about 36 - 90 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.
9. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion is characterized by a density of about 25 lbs. per cubic foot or less.
10. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion is characterized by a density of about 9 lbs. per cubic foot or less.
11. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion is characterized by an uncompressed chip size of about 25 mm or less.
12. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 11, wherein the uncompressed chip size is about 12 mm or less.
13. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 11, wherein the uncompressed chip size is about 7 mm or less.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

14. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam is characterized by a binder quantity of about 25% or less.
15. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 14, wherein the binder content is about 15% or less.
16. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 14, wherein the binder content is about 10% or less.
17. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive material comprises a hot melt adhesive.
18. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is characterized by a face weight of less than or equal to about 55 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.
19. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 17, wherein the hot melt adhesive is present at a level of about 36 – 50 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.
20. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive material comprises a polyolefin based thermoplastic hot melt adhesive.
21. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is at least one of a tufted, bonded, flocked, needle punched, and woven carpet.
22. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion is

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

characterized by a thickness of about 25 mm or less.

23. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 22, wherein the foam thickness is about 12 mm or less.

24. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 22, wherein the foam thickness is about 4mm or less.

25. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the adhesive material comprises a polyurethane thermoset adhesive.

26. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion includes a lower surface of rebond foam and a backing material bonded to said lower surface.

27. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is a tufted carpet including pile yarn, primary backing, and a pre-coat adhesive.

28. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is a tufted carpet including pile yarn and a primary backing.

29. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the primary carpet is a bonded carpet including pile yarn and a backing material.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

30. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said layer of reinforcing material comprises at least one of a porous scrim, woven, and non-woven material.
31. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said reinforcement material is formed of fiberglass.
32. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said reinforcement material comprises a porous textile structure.
33. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said reinforcement material consists essentially of polyester.
34. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said layer of reinforcing material comprises a plurality of glass fibers.
35. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said layer of reinforcing material comprises a plurality of polyester fibers.
36. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said adhesive material substantially permeates and covers the layer of reinforcing material and extends in bonding relation between said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion such that said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion are adhesively bonded to one another by said adhesive material.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

37. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said primary carpet is a tufted carpet and wherein said adhesive material extends between said rebond foam cushion and the underside of said primary carpet.

38. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said primary carpet is a bonded carpet and wherein said adhesive material extends between said rebond foam cushion and the underside of said primary carpet fabric.

39. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 3, wherein said adhesive material substantially permeates and covers the layer of reinforcing material and extends in bonding relation between said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion such that said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion are adhesively bonded to one another by said adhesive material and wherein a layer of textile backing material is bonded to said rebond foam cushion across the surface of said rebond foam cushion facing away from said adhesive material.

40. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein said rebond foam cushion is characterized by a density of about 6 to 12 lbs. per cubic foot.

41. (Currently Amended) A carpet tile, comprising: a primary carpet, a polyurethane rebond foam cushion comprising polyurethane foam chips and binder and including an upper surface of rebond foam disposed at a position below said primary carpet, a mass of adhesive material contacting said upper surface of the rebond foam cushion and disposed in bonding relation between said primary carpet and said upper surface of the rebond foam cushion and a layer of reinforcing material disposed between said primary carpet and said upper surface of the rebond

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

foam cushion such that at least a portion of said mass of adhesive material extends away from at least one side of said layer of reinforcing material.

42. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the rebond foam cushion is characterized by a density of about 25 lbs. per cubic foot or less.

43. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 42, wherein the primary carpet is characterized by a face weight of less than or equal to about 45 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.

44. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the adhesive material is selected from at least one of thermoplastic and thermoset adhesives.

45. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the adhesive material is present at a level of less than or equal to about 100 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.

46. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the polyurethane rebond foam cushion comprises at most 25% polyurethane binder and at least 50% polyurethane foam chips.

47. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the polyurethane rebond foam cushion has a density of about 6 to 12 lb./cu. ft.

48. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein the primary carpet is a tufted carpet including pile yarn and a primary backing.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

49. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 41, wherein a textile backing material is disposed across the underside of said polyurethane rebond foam cushion.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a carpet tile comprising the steps of: bonding at least one layer of preformed rebond foam comprising foam chips and binder to the underside of a primary carpet fabric by a mass of adhesive disposed in contacting bonding relation to an upper surface of the rebond foam.

51. (Original) The method as recited in claim 50, further comprising the steps of bonding a reinforcement material between said primary carpet and rebond foam layer.

Claims 52 – 53 (Canceled)

54. (Previously Presented) A carpet tile produced by the method of claim 50.

55. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cushion backed carpet composite comprising the steps of: laminating an upper rebond surface of a layer of rebond foam comprising foam chips and binder to the base of a primary carpet fabric.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Original): A carpet composite produced by the method according to claim 55.



Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

58. (Currently Amended) A dimensionally stable cushioned carpet tile suitable for disposition as discrete modular units across a flooring surface, the carpet tile comprising:

a primary carpet fabric having a pile side and a primary base with a plurality of pile forming yarns projecting outwardly from the pile side;

a rebond foam cushion layer comprising foam chips and binder including an upper surface of rebond foam disposed at a position below the primary carpet fabric; and

a bridging composite extending in bonding relation substantially between the primary base and the upper surface of the rebond foam cushion layer wherein the bridging composite consists essentially of a layer of stabilizing material having a first side and a second side, a first layer of at least one resilient adhesive extending away from the first side of the stabilizing material into contacting relation with the primary base and a second layer of at least one resilient adhesive extending away from the second side of the layer of stabilizing material into contacting relation with the upper surface of the rebond foam cushion layer such that the layer of stabilizing material is bonded between the first and second layers of resilient adhesive at a position between the primary base and the rebond foam cushion layer.

59. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the primary carpet fabric is a tufted carpet and wherein the primary base comprises a primary backing and a layer of adhesive pre-coat extending across the underside of the primary backing.

60. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 59, wherein the adhesive pre-coat comprises at least one of a latex and hot melt adhesive.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

61. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 60, wherein the hot melt adhesive is bitumen based hot melt adhesive.
62. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 60, wherein the hot melt adhesive is a polyolefin based hot melt adhesive.
63. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the resilient adhesive is at least one of a thermoset and thermoplastic.
64. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the primary carpet fabric is a bonded carpet.
65. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the rebond foam cushion layer comprises polyurethane rebond foam characterized by a density of about 5 to 25 lbs. per cubic foot.
66. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the rebond foam cushion layer comprises polyurethane rebond foam characterized by a density of about 5 to 12 lbs. per cubic foot.
67. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the first layer of at least one resilient adhesive comprises a thermoplastic adhesive.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

68. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 67, wherein said adhesive is bitumen based hot melt adhesive.

69. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 67, wherein said adhesive is a polyolefin based hot melt adhesive.

70. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 67, wherein said first layer of resilient adhesive is a thermoset adhesive.

71. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the primary base comprises a primary backing and a layer of latex adhesive pre-coat extending across the underside of the primary backing.

72. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the primary base comprises a primary backing and a layer of hot melt adhesive pre-coat extending across the underside of the primary backing.

73. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the second layer of at least one resilient adhesive comprises a hot melt adhesive.

74. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 73, wherein said hot melt adhesive is bitumen based hot melt adhesive.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

75. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 73, wherein said hot melt adhesive is polyolefin based hot melt adhesive.
76. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 73, wherein said second layer of resilient adhesive is a thermoset adhesive.
77. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the combined mass of the first layer of at least one resilient adhesive and the second layer of at least one resilient adhesive is not greater than about 100 ounces per square yard.
78. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the stabilizing material comprises a sheet of non-woven fiberglass.
79. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, wherein the first layer of at least one resilient adhesive comprises a hot melt adhesive and the second layer of at least one resilient adhesive comprises a hot melt adhesive.
80. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 79, wherein the stabilizing material substantially separates the first layer of at least one resilient adhesive from the second layer of at least one resilient adhesive.
81. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 58, further comprising a backing structure disposed across the lower side of the rebond foam cushion layer.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

82. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 81, wherein the backing structure comprises a multi-component composite.

83. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 82, wherein said multi-component composite comprises a layer of adhesive disposed adjacent the lower side of the rebond foam cushion layer.

84. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 83, wherein said layer of adhesive disposed adjacent the lower side of the rebond foam cushion layer is present at a level of not greater than about 40 ounces per square yard.

85. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 81, wherein said backing structure comprises a multi-component composite including a quick release backing.

Claims 86 - 88 (Canceled)

89. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 1, wherein said rebond foam cushion has an internal tear strength of at least 3 lbs.

90. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 1, wherein the rebond foam cushion has a compressibility of less than 100% of the foam thickness at 40 psi.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

91. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 1, wherein said carpet tile has an appearance retention rating of at least 4.0 after 4,000 cycles.

92. (Original) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, having an appearance retention rating of at least 3 after 12,000 cycles.

93. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion is at least one of a cut, slit and peeled rebond foam.

94. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion has a recycled content of at least 85%.

95. (Currently Amended) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion is comprised of open celled foam ~~particles~~ chips bonded together.

96. (Original) The carpet tile as recited in claim 95, wherein the open celled foam is comprised of foamed polyurethane.

97. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91 wherein said rebond foam cushion has an average uncompressed chip size of 25 mm or less.

98. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion has a density of  $\geq 25 \text{ lbs/ft}^3$ .

Customer No. 25280

Case 6113A

99. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion has a recycled content of at least 50%.

100. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, having a hexapod rating >2.0 at 12,000 cycles.

Claims 101 – 102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, having an initial Gmax of less than 125.

104. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, having a cushion weight of less than 32 oz/yd<sup>2</sup> and an initial Gmax less than 125.

105. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the rebond foam cushion has at least one of a honey-combed, reticulated, and skeletal open cell structure.

106. (Currently Amended) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the rebond foam cushion has a structure of randomly placed ~~particles~~ foam chips bonded together in a compressed state.

Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

Claims 107 – 108. (Canceled)

109. (Currently Amended): The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the rebond foam cushion is bonded together with an adhesive binder.

110. (Currently Amended) The carpet tile as recited in claim 109, wherein said adhesive binder contains at least one additive, agent or compound selected from flame retardant, anti-bacterial, color, anti-microbial, anti-fungal, conductive, anti-static, fibers, filler, recycled materials, and combinations thereof.

111. (Currently Amended) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the rebond foam cushion comprises compressible ~~partieles~~ foam chips bonded together in a compressed state.

112. (Currently Amended) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion includes a plurality of layers of compressible ~~partieles~~ foam chips bonded together.

113. Canceled

114. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the carpet layer includes at least one of woven, tufted, or bonded carpet.

Claims 115 – 118 (Canceled)



Customer No. 25280

Case 5113A

119. (Previously Presented) The carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein the tile has an overall height of less than 10 mm.

Claims 120 – 121 (Canceled)

122. (Previously Presented) The cushion back carpet tile as recited in claim 91, wherein said rebond foam cushion has a thickness of about 2 to 20 mm.

Claims 123-142 (Canceled)

143. (Previously Presented) The invention as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second layer of adhesive material between said primary carpet and said rebond foam cushion.